

JPL Stories



*Thursday,
April 26,
2007*

4:30 - 5:30 PM

***JPL Library,
Customer
Service Area,
West end of
Building 111
Room 104***

Getting by... **with a Little Help from Our Friends**

*Presented by Michael Hecht,
Principal Technologist, In Situ Instruments Section*

MECA began life and suffered an early death in the Mars Surveyor 2001 Lander program. A faster-better-cheaper investigation of potential hazards to human exploration of Mars, MECA was subsequently reincarnated as a science payload on the 2007 Phoenix Lander. This Swiss-army-knife of instruments to study physical and chemical aspects of Martian soil would not have been possible without an array of creative partners from small companies and universities who invented and developed highly specialized components, tools, and sensors. In the end, it was the personal relationships with these diverse partners that made MECA possible.

Everyone is welcome.

